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ENGLAND.

*Report from London—Smallpox in Glasgow—Typhus fever in Manchester—
Plague reports.*

LONDON, ENGLAND, March 9, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report for the week ended to-day:

The smallpox situation in Glasgow continues grave. During the week there has been a further increase in the number of cases, and there were on March 8, 22 new cases, 1 death, and 446 patients in the hospital. There has been a total of 154 deaths since the beginning of the outbreak. More vigorous measures are to be adopted to stamp out the epidemic, including the employment of a large number of lay vaccinators who will make house-to-house visits in the infected districts for the purpose of revaccination. Up to the present time about 300,000 vaccinations and revaccinations have been done out of a total population of about 800,000. Three further cases of smallpox have occurred in Edinburgh, making a total of 4 cases.

Only 1 case of smallpox was in the London fever hospital on March 2, and there were no deaths from this disease in England for the week ended March 2. There have been no cases of plague reported in Great Britain during the week.

From Cape Town, the news is of the rather rapid spread of the disease. Up to February 28 there had been 9 deaths, and since then a number of natives have been found dead from this disease, the cases having been concealed. A number of Europeans have also been attacked in the past week.

In Mauritius, for the week ended February 21, there were 16 fresh cases of plague and 13 deaths.

The transport *Antillion* is reported to have arrived at Sydney, Australia, from Cape Town, with a case of plague on board. A case of plague was reported March 4 at Port Adelaide. On March 5 a fatal case of plague was reported from Perth, West Australia.

Referring to my recent report regarding typhus in Manchester, I have to add that 25 further cases of typhus have been discovered, bringing the total number of cases up to 60 with 9 deaths. All the original sources of infection have been rag sorters or tobacco workers.

Respectfully,

A. R. THOMAS,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine Hospital Service.

GERMANY.

Experiments proving the possibility of infecting the embryo with tuberculosis without infecting the mother.

BERLIN, GERMANY, March 5, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to report the result of the recent experimental studies conducted by Dr. Friedrich Franz Friedmann in the Biological Institute of the University of Berlin, proving the direct infection of the embryo with tubercle bacilli, without infecting the mother. Clinical evidence has tended to prove the possibility of direct transmission of tuberculosis from the male, but it has been difficult to exclude all

possibility of infection through the mother. It would be easy to overlook a small focus of infection in the lungs, genital tract, or elsewhere.

Dr. Friedmann has used for this purpose healthy rabbits, and has injected into the vagina of the female, immediately after copulation, a few drops of a virulent culture of tubercle bacilli, which are suspended in a slightly alkaline salt solution. After the lapse of six days, before the appearance of the first signs of placental formation, the rabbit was killed, and the embryo with the adjoining part of the uterus was placed in absolute alcohol, and finally imbedded in paraffin. Very fine transverse sections were then made perpendicular to the long axis of the uterus. The specimen was then stained according to Ehrlich's method, the tubercle bacilli assuming a beautiful rose-red color, while the tissues remained blue. The bacilli were for the most part found within the cells lining the embryo, though some were found in the coagulated fluid within the embryo, and others in the zona pelucida. Dr. Friedmann succeeded in finding the bacilli in 48 different places, which would tend to eliminate the chance of accidental occurrence or error of observation.

The organs of the mother were next examined and found healthy. No bacilli were found in the mucous membrane of the uterus, and only in 2 cases were they observed in the cavity of the uterus, and then situated near the embryo.

These experiments of Dr. Friedmann correspond to the well-known clinical fact in regard to syphilis—that a child can inherit the disease from the father without the mother becoming infected.

The further course of development of the embryo with the contained tubercle bacilli will be carefully studied by Dr. Friedmann, and will be published as soon as his investigations are concluded.

Through the courtesy of Dr. Friedmann I was permitted to see the beautiful preparations which he has made, and must say that they are most convincing.

Respectfully,

JOSEPH B. GREENE,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Report from Berlin—Plague reported introduced into Australia from South Africa.

[Clipping from Berliner Tageblatt, March 4, 1901. Sent by Passed Assistant Surgeon Green.]

BERLIN, GERMANY, *March 5, 1901.*

The plague has now been introduced from South Africa into Australia. According to a telegram from Sydney, a case of plague with fatal termination occurred on board a ship which has arrived in that port for the purpose of embarking fresh Australian troops. Furthermore in the vicinity of Brisbane 2 cases of plague have occurred.

In Cape Colony the plague continues to spread. Yesterday and the day before yesterday 11 new cases were reported. One of the patients is a European woman. The dead bodies of 5 colored people have been found.